

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 935

H.P. 692

House of Representatives, February 25, 2003

An Act To Abolish Term Limits for Legislators

Reference to the Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative SUSLOVIC of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator GAGNON of Kennebec and
Representatives: BOWEN of Rockport, CANAVAN of Waterville, CLARK of Millinocket,
LANDRY of Sanford, MILLS of Cornville, THOMPSON of China, Senator: MAYO of
Sagadahoc.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

4 **Sec. 1. 3 MRSA §5** is enacted to read:

6 **§5. Committee chair; term limitation**

8 A person may not serve as chair of a joint standing
10 committee of the Legislature for more than 3 consecutive
12 legislative bienniums.

14 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §553, sub-§§1 and 2,** as enacted by IB 1993,
16 c. 1, §1 and affected by §2, are repealed.

18 **Sec. 3. Statutory referendum procedure; submission at statewide**
20 **election; form of question; effective date.** This Act takes effect when
22 approved only for the purpose of permitting its submission to the
24 legal voters of the State at a statewide election held on the
26 Tuesday following the first Monday of November following passage
28 of this Act. The municipal officers of this State shall notify
the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations
to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for holding a statewide
election, to vote on the acceptance or rejection of this Act by
voting on the following question:

30 "Do you favor repealing term limits for Maine Legislators
32 and limiting committee chair terms for joint standing
34 committees of the Legislature to 3 bienniums in the same way
36 that terms are limited for legislative leadership?"

38 The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall
40 vote by ballot on this question and designate their choice by a
cross or check mark placed within a corresponding square below
the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received, sorted,
counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings
and returns made to the Secretary of State in the same manner as
votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall review
the returns and, if it appears that a majority of the legal votes
are cast in favor of the Act, the Governor shall proclaim that
fact without delay, and the Act takes effect 30 days after the
date of the proclamation.

42 The Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish to each
44 city, town and plantation all ballots, returns and copies of this
Act necessary to carry out the purposes of this referendum.

SUMMARY

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4 Subject to approval by the voters at a referendum held in
6 November 2003, this bill repeals term limits for Legislators and
 limits the terms of legislative committee chairs to 3 legislative
 bienniums, in the same way that terms are limited for legislative
 leadership.